

WANAMAKER OFFERS AIR CRUISER TO U. S.

Amateur Aviator Tenders Huge
Craft, With Trained Crew,
for War Purposes.

NEW YORK, March 31.—A huge air cruiser of the design of the America, which was about to attempt a non-stop flight across the Atlantic ocean when the war interfered, will be immediately placed at the disposal of the Government for war purposes by Rodman Wanamaker, through whose generosity the America was built.

The offer will be made through the Aero Club of America, to whose president, Alan R. Hawley, Mr. Wanamaker wrote yesterday authorizing the gift.

If accepted, and there is little doubt that the defense agencies of the Government will welcome it, the new cruiser will furnish New York city with its first real aerial protection.

Urges Aviation Portfolio.

In Mr. Wanamaker's letter to Mr. Hawley he makes the suggestion that aeronautics have become so intensely important in war that it would be well to gather all the aviation information, all responsibility and direction in aeronautics under one capable man, who should be made a member of the President's cabinet, with the title of Secretary of Aeronautics, who would understand business methods and aviation matters, can formulate and organize a substantial air service without loss of unnecessary time at this intense moment.

Mr. Wanamaker has already donated to the Government the use of his aviation training station at Palm Beach to train men for the Government aviation service.

In March, 1916, he furnished the Army and Navy with the first of the blue prints and full details of the air cruiser he now offers to the Government.

Offer Includes Two Experts.

A skilled pilot and an expert mechanic, both familiar with the new cruiser and now in Mr. Wanamaker's employ, are included in the offer; also Mr. Wanamaker's aviation station at Port Washington. The cruiser will carry pilot, mechanic, and gunner. Mr. Wanamaker assumes that the Government will prefer to furnish its own gunner.

The new cruiser will be fitted with two 200-horsepower motors, a suitable aeroplane gun and the pilot and mechanic. Mr. Wanamaker says of his gift:

"This will give to the Government the first coast patrol station in America equipped with an armed air cruiser capable of hunting submarines, locating mines, and conveying warships, and will give New York city its first real aerial protection."

LECTURE ON RUSSIA
Prof. Harper Says Peasant Has
Come Into His Own.

That the Russian peasant has come into his own now that there is popular government in his great country was the burden of the message Prof. Samuel N. Harper had for National Geographic Society audiences yesterday when he lectured at the New Masonic Auditorium on the development in Russia since the European war began.

To this war, Dr. Harper gives the credit for having advanced the political, emancipation of the nation, a whole generation within the short space of two and a half years. Pictures of peasants in peace, as farmers and shopkeepers, and in war as sturdy soldiers were shown to illustrate the lecture with portraits of the men who are at the head of the new government in Petrograd. In the peasant pictures the government was shown working in the harvest fields side by side with the men. This equality of labor, the lecturer explained, will account in a large measure for the political equality it is said the women are to enjoy under the new regime.

Great Movement.

During recent years a great educational movement—"the movement for liberation"—has been taking place in Russia and this has resulted in the powerful Zemstvo Union, comprising hundreds of local organizations all over the country with several millions of members, said the lecturer.

These Zemstvo workers have for years been fitting the peasant for self government by training him in village and communal affairs, developing schools, hospitals and other economic improvements.

"The workers," Dr. Harper declared, "have been doing government work for a long time, resulting in 1906 in the establishment of the Duma, the people's representation in the government. The beginning of these reforms was the abolition of serfdom, and one of these 26,000,000 serfs who were liberated in 1861 was the grandfather of the new minister of war, Alexander Guchkov."

"At the beginning of the present war the reactionaries and the Liberals were struggling for supremacy, but all opposition to the government was dropped and all classes combined to give material support. The public insisted upon being allowed to co-operate, and organizations were formed for this purpose, contrary to the wishes of certain members of the ministry, who realized the difficulty of disorganizing them later."

Aim of Revolution.
"The aim of the revolution," Dr. Harper said, "is the establishment of a responsible government and its red flag now flying in Petrograd does not mean anarchy, but a new order of things and a complete reorganization of Russian society. The peasants are to become full-fledged citizens with equal rights."

Dr. Harper is perhaps America's foremost expert on Russian affairs for he has given ten years to an intensive study of the subject. At one time he was connected with the Imperial University in Petrograd, but is now a member of the faculty of the University of Chicago, holding the chair of Russian language and institutions. He has visited Russia annually, and on these trips has come into close contact with all classes of the people, who have freely discussed their ideals.

TO REBUILD FRANCE

PARIS, March 31.—The government introduced in the Chamber of Deputies today a supplementary appropriation bill for \$20,000,000. The money is to be used for agricultural aid to the invaded districts, including those recently evacuated by the Germans.

SIGN THIS PLEDGE OF LOYALTY TO U. S.

TO THE PRESIDENT:

As an American, faithful to American ideals of justice, liberty, and humanity, I hereby declare my absolute and unconditional loyalty to the Government of the United States and pledge my support to you in protecting American rights against unlawful violence upon land and sea, in guarding the Nation against hostile attacks, and in upholding international right.

Cut this out, paste it at the top of a long sheet of paper, and get your neighbors and friends to sign it. After obtaining as many signatures as possible mail it to The Times. The Times will see that the pledges and signatures are placed in the hands of the President of the United States.

TOMMIES PLY THE HOE

British Soldiers Home on Leave
Turn to Gardening.

LONDON, March 31.—The British Tommy, home on leave from trench digging and guarding the line, now passes most of his time digging and hoeing truck gardens in his native land. In doing this he is augmenting the land army of civilians at home and the thousands of soldiers in training at the various military camps in England who find time to do their "bit" in the gardens.

Throughout the length and breadth of this island, around the military camps and especially along the railway lines, well laid out gardens or allotments may be seen. The first of February there were 25,000 of the plots under cultivation in this country, thus giving some idea of the speed with which the people have taken to the spade and plow since the authorities have tried to arouse them to the danger of starvation as threatened by the submarines. The government threatened to commandeer idle land unless it was cultivated. The result was that farmers everywhere got busy and there is now little land "going to waste."

MEXICANS KILL 2 BRITISH

Reign of Terror in Oil Fields Is Reported.

GALVESTON, Tex., March 31.—W. H. T. Buckingham, general manager of the Agulla Oil Company, on the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, and his nephew, named Bannerman, both British subjects, were killed by bandits at Nanchital, March 9, according to information brought here by passengers from Mexico. After Buckingham had been killed his body was hacked to pieces.

The passengers also reported a reign of terror had prevailed for weeks in the oil fields near Minatitlan, Vera Cruz state, and declared it to be the result of German influence.

PATRIOTIC SPIRIT FIRES SCHOOLBOYS

Georgetown Youngsters Drill,
Showing Readiness to
Serve Country.

They have no uniforms and hardly time to don them—even if supplied with khaki gray—but patriotism takes the place of both uniform and side arm with the military-like marchers of the Hyde, Curtis and Addison Schools, in Georgetown, who have formed a pupils' regiment to manifest their loyalty.

At the lunch hour yesterday, "The Woodrow Wilson Loyalty Marching Club," a co-ed organization, parades the streets and sidewalks in Georgetown, in the vicinity of O and Thirtieth streets northwest. The pupils call it a fife and drum company; teachers describe it as a patriotic organization, but William A. Hickey, custodian of the Hyde School is authorized for the statement that it is a group of loyalists inspired by The Times' loyalty campaign to organize in a military fashion and display their patriotism and willingness to do their "bit" in a national crisis.

Drill Without Officers.
"They have no captain, no lieutenants, and no director, except myself," said Mr. Hickey today, "but you won't find better marchers anywhere outside of the army."

"The purpose of the marching is to teach the children to drill. We have all agreed here and these little fellows will be the soldiers of tomorrow, so I guess it's best they begin at once. As soon as lunch is over they form in line, eight abreast, and I lead them. I served three enlistments in the army and am ready to go again, if needed."

Mr. Hickey said that the pupils began organizing a club after Edmund Sullivan, a seventh grade student, began last week to obtain the signatures of citizens to loyalty pledges. Edmund sent a letter today to President Wilson, informing the Executive that the juvenile club has been named in his honor.

Girls No Whit Behind.

The drills will continue daily, according to Mr. Hickey. Three boys have snare drums, half a dozen are equipped with fife and small bugles. Girls, as well as the boys of the Hyde, Curtis, and Addison schools, are marching daily. If plans of student leaders are carried out, the girls will carry small Red Cross flags in future, signifying their willingness to do their "bit" as nurses.

PRESENT SHAKESPEARE.

Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar" was presented by the second high school class of the Friends' School yesterday, under the direction of Miss Ada Mary Neal, English department. Brutus was played by Julia Hopkins, supported by Tinsley Dent as Mark Anthony, and Mary Roberts, Charles Stone and Eleanor Eby. The Girls' Glee Club provided music and Thomas W. Sidwell spoke on the educational value of the drama.

ASKS RIGHT TO CUT RATES

Telephone Company Suggests Reduction Against Government.

Declaring it is desired to grant the reduction because of the "serious emergency confronting the country," the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company today filed with the Public Utilities Commission a request that it be permitted to file on one day's notice a schedule providing for a discount of 50 per cent to Federal and State Governments for telephone service.

The usual notification period is ten days.

GIRL SCOUTS OUT TO GET PLEDGES

Four Hundred Members Scour
City for Signatures Promising
Loyalty.

Have you signed your loyalty pledge yet?

If you haven't, watch out for the Girl Scouts, for they're out in force today.

Early this morning a hurry-up call was received for more pledges from the Girl Scout headquarters. Already they had received from The Times enough blank pledges to carry more than 20,000 signatures, but such is the intense rivalry between the various troops in the Girl Scout organization that more pledges were necessary.

Into the schools, churches, homes, stores, and offices, the Girl Scouts have gone with their pledges, asking everyone to prove their loyalty to the nation.

Only four hundred girls have done this.

Many Sources.

The zeal of patriotism, deep rooted in citizens of all walks of life, found expression today in many sources in pledges forwarded to The Times, which placed the signers on record as standing behind President Wilson and the Government.

Edmund M. Sullivan, fifteen-year-old pupil of the Hyde School, brought to The Times office today the signatures of 1,239 individuals. This list represents pupils of the fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grades of the Hyde, Curtis and Addison Schools in Georgetown.

Not content with merely securing the signatures of his neighborhood friends and schoolmates, Edmund carried the pledge to other quarters today.

Travelers Approached.

He visited the Union Station. Every traveler he could catch was asked to sign and none, he said, refused.

One Chinese, Han Lee, of Georgetown, affixed his name to the list with the quaint Oriental hieroglyphics and told Edmund at the same time he was ready to do anything in his power to defend the interests of his adopted country.

Another communication was received from the F street office of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway Company, where officials and clerks signed the loyalty pledge.

UNCLE SAM TAKES OVER DANISH ISLES

Minister Brun Receives \$25-
000,000 and Virgin Group
Become American.

With the delivery of a United States treasury warrant for \$25,000,000, the equivalent of forty-eight tons of gold, to Constantin Brun, the Danish minister, the United States today formally took over the Danish West Indies, hereafter to be known as the Virgin Islands.

Immediately after delivery of the check, cabled instructions were sent by Minister Brun to Acting Governor Know at St. Thomas to deliver the islands to the United States in the name of the King, and instructions were sent by Secretary of the Navy Daniels to Commander E. T. Pollock to take over the islands in the name of the United States.

The delivery of the treasury warrant to the Danish minister was accompanied by considerable ceremony. Secretary of State Lansing, Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo, Secretary of the Navy Daniels, and Admiral Oliver, the new governor of the islands, acted for the United States. Minister Brun represented his government, receiving the check and signing a receipt.

Transaction Is Final.

The payment of the \$25,000,000 purchase price was made in the diplomatic reception room of the State Department while the officials involved in the transfer faced a battery of cameras and motion picture machines. As soon as the payment was made and the receipt signed, formal messages to the American and Danish representatives at St. Thomas were placed on the wire. A direct wire had been run to the cable company's office in New York.

The two messages were sent by cable to Porto Rico, were taken off the

cable and sent by radio to Commander Pollock, commanding the Hancock, and the formal transfer of the island was made.

The Danish flag was saluted and taken down and the American flag put up in St. Thomas.

Next to Largest Warrent.

The warrant for \$25,000,000 was, next to the Panama Canal zone warrant, the largest ever drawn by the United States Government. It was endorsed by Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo, United States Treasurer Burke, and Comptroller of the Treasury Warwick.

The warrant was presented to the United States Treasury for payment by Minister Brun later in the day.

Although the treaty provided for payment in gold coin, Secretary McAdoo found this would be impracticable, since Treasury officials advised him \$25,000,000 in gold coin would weigh forty-eight tons. Treasurer Burke, therefore, authorized a credit of the entire amount, divided in three parts between three United States banks. The City National Bank and the Bank of Commerce were two of the banks named. The name of the third was not announced.

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York was instructed to place \$20,000,000 in gold at the disposal of the three New York banks against their credits. The additional \$5,000,000 in gold will be paid out of the \$700,000,000 gold bullion stock of the New York subtreasury.

TO TOUR VIRGIN ISLANDS

Admiral Oliver Will Inspect Newest
United States Possessions.

Admiral Oliver, newly appointed governor of the Virgin Islands of the United States—formerly the Danish West Indies—upon his arrival at St. Thomas will make a "getting acquainted" tour of the other islands of the group, under orders from the Navy Department.

The department announced today that all rights of foreign commerce now trading in the West Indies will remain unchanged for the present. Furthermore, no tariff changes or radical alterations in commercial regulations. This announcement is expected to allay uncertainty among foreign shippers.

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NINE GIRLS' SCHOOLS SUPPORT PRESIDENT

Pledge Their Loyalty in Crisis
in Resolutions to Be Presented
By His Daughters.

Loyalty to the President is pledged by nine of the leading American colleges for women in resolutions adopted for presentation to the Chief Executive by his daughters, Mrs. Francis B. Sayre, a graduate of Goucher, and Miss Margaret Wilson, who attended the same college.

The resolutions follow:

"To the President of the United States: We, the undersigned